

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Jeanne M. Lambrew, Ph.D.
Commissioner



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December 9, 2022

Re: MaineCare Final Rate Determination Schedule

Dear MaineCare Stakeholders,

The Office of MaineCare Services (OMS) released today the final MaineCare Rate Determination Schedule for Calendar Year 2023. This schedule lists rate determinations that are either already in progress or will be initiated during CY 2023. This schedule is the result of several months of work, and it includes input from the Rate Setting Technical Advisory Panel, as well as consultation with stakeholder groups and providers. The Department offered an opportunity for public review and comment of the draft prior to the Department releasing this final version. This letter is to share MaineCare's rationale for certain decisions around the final version of the schedule.

We received several comments in support of adding Section 21 to the CY 2023 Rate Determination Schedule. Section 21 has not had a rate study that meets all requirements of Ch 639, but there have been multiple rate increases in recent years. Those increases used available data and benchmarks, resulting in meaningful increases to many services, including increases to ensure that the labor components equal at least 125% of minimum wage, and that all rate components be adjusted for cost-of-living increases. Other services have gone much longer without substantive, data-driven adjustments, and therefore are higher priority. For example:

- The Department must prioritize PNMI Appendices E and F services, which have rate methodologies that do not meet the diverse needs within and across these service models and are not aligned with best practices to ensure equitable, efficient and adequate reimbursement.
- Clinical and Nursing Services cross several sections of policy and have not been addressed in over a decade, yet they have some of the most severe workforce shortages in recent years.

It is the Department's goal to ensure all MaineCare services undergo fair, transparent, and timely rate reform processes. Any service not on the CY 2023 Rate Determination Schedule will see a

review within the next several years. Thank you for being a contributing participant in this data-driven, timebound process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle Probert". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michelle" and last name "Probert" clearly distinguishable.

Michelle Probert
Director, Office of MaineCare Services